setting up of a Task Force to analyse/examine issues related to the performance of power sector during the 9th Plan and advance action to be taken for 10th Plan. The Planning Commission had thereafter constituted a Working Group for the Power Sector for the 10th Plan which, *inter-alia*, has identified the projects to be pursued in the 10th Plan and also made an estimation of the resource requirement for generation, transmission and distribution, rural electrification, manpower development etc. Separately, the Ministry of Power has put in place a mechanism for regular monitoring of all projects which are to be commissioned during the Tenth Plan and beyond. This is over and above the Empowered Committee, chaired by Secretary, Power, which meets every quarter to monitor on-going projects.

Progress in construction of Loktak Downstream Project at Manipur

391. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present progress for construction of Loktak Downstream at Manipur;

(b) the total amount of funds so far released for this project; and

(c) the amount so far released for compensation of project site?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Loktak Downstream Hydro-electric Project (90 MW), Manipur, was accorded Government approval on 30.12.1999 for its execution by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at an estimated cost of Rs. 578.62 crores.

Work could not be taken up on the Project due to the non-availability of security coverage for the project and also due to problems in land acquisition. A stay order was granted by the Hon'ble High Court Guwahati, on the petition filed by affected villagers which has since been vacated. A fresh assessment and survey was directed by the Government of Manipur to assess the quantum of land and crop compensation payable on account of execution of the Project. The State Government has assessed the compensation payable to be approximately Rs. 18 crores, which is higher than the

amount projected in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). A fresh Petition has been filed by a local resident of Thangal village against the State Government and others on 26.9.2001 in the High Court, Imphal Bench.

The State Government is also required to make arrangements for the accommodation of the security forces. They have requested that the cost of accommodation be booked to the project cost. This would affect the cost of the project Tariff and its viability.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 35.00 crores has so far, been released for the project. No funds have been released towards payment of compensation.

Setting up power transmission projects by private firms

392. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private firms are eager to set up power transmission projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that offers are being made by private Indian Companies as well as foreign companies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) POWERGRID had invited bids for private investment for specific Transmission Projects associated with Tala Hydro-electric Project through Joint Venture Route and Request for Qualification (RfQ) for 400 KV D/C Bina-Nagda-Dehgam Transmission Project through Independent Private Transmission Company (IPTC) route. Offers have been received by POWERGRID from Private Indian Companies as well as foreign companies in this regard. These offers are under process in POWERGRID.

POWERGRID had also invited Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested parties for participation in eight future